(a) the details of the different agreements signed between India and South Africa during the recent visit of the South African President to India;

(b) whether any deliberations to enhance economic co-operation between the two countries have also taken place; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Following bilateral agreements were signed during the visit of the President of South Africa to India;

1. Extradition Treaty.
2. Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.
3. Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Power.
4. Agreement on cooperation in the field of Hydrocarbons.

(b) Yes.

(c) It was agreed to strengthen cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries. Also a Framework Preferential Trade Agreement between Indian and Southern African Customs Union (SACU) of which South Africa is a prominent member, is in an advanced stage of finalization.

Omission of India's name from list of victims of terrorism

1033. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the fact that the U.S. President in his address to the recent U.N. General Assembly Session (2003) omitted India's name while recounting the names of the countries which were victims of terrorism, such as Jakarta, Bali, Casablanca and Riyadh;

(b) what steps have since been taken to bring home to the U.S. and other U.N. members the conspicuous omission made by U.S. President; and

(c) the U.S. response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) In his address to the U.N. General Assembly in September, 2003, the U.S. President gave some examples of cities that had had terrorist incidents in the recent past and did not specifically describe any country as a victim of terrorism.

(b) and (c) The U.S. Administration has on a number of occasions condemned terrorist incidents in India and acknowledged India as a victims of terrorism. It recognises the nature and source of terrorism in India and has called upon Pakistan to take steps to put a permanent end to cross border terrorism in India. On October 29, 2003, a senior U.S. official specifically described India as a victim of trrorism during a testimony before the U.S. Congress and cited the tragic attack on the Indian Parliament on December 13, 2001, as well as the terrorist bombing in Mumbai in August 2003.

Release of prisoners by India and Pakistan

1034. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of prisoners released by India and Pakistan during the last one year;

(b) the number of Indian and Pakistani prisoners in respective jails as per the information available with Government;

(c) whether any councillor services are being provided to the prisoners and if not, the reason therefor;

(d) the number of Pakistani prisoners facing trial in various courts of the country and whether any special courts have been set-up for speedy trial; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) 114 Pakistani nationals, including fishermen and civilians, under Indian custody have been released till date during the year 2003. Pakistan has released 623 Indian Fishermen and 38 civilian prisoners during the year 2003.